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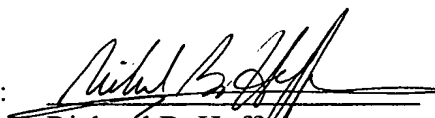
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Applicants hereby claim the benefit of the filing date under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German Patent Application No. 101 09 875.8, filed March 1, 2001. A certified copy will be later filed.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard B. Hoffman", is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: February 28, 2002